

# Medicaid Waiver Eligibility Determination

*Medicaid waiver programs are administered by the Division of Senior and Disabilities Services to provide home and community based (HCB) services for Alaskans. People seeking services under the HCB waiver program must be eligible for care provided in a nursing home, but have chosen instead to receive services in their homes and community. An assessment of the person's medical diagnoses, conditions, limitations, and ADL/IADL proficiency allows the Division of Senior and Disabilities Services to determine a person's eligibility for the HCB waiver program. Since Medicaid is a program for low-income people, financial eligibility must also be established.*

*Following are some of the factors that are given consideration for eligibility for HCB waiver programs serving Older Alaskans (age 65 and over) and Adults with Physical Disabilities (21 years and older):*

## 1. Skilled Care Needs

- Is the person on oxygen?
- Are regular home visits from a nurse or other health care professional required for a stable long-term condition, such as ostomy care, phlebotomy, diabetic teaching, medication management, or tracheostomy care?
- Does the person have uncontrolled diabetes, require sterile dressing changes, or has suffered a recent stroke?
- Is this a medically unstable person with frequent care needs, such as IV therapies, ventilator dependent, gastrostomy, J-tube feeding, or end-of-life care?

## 2. Prescription Medication Administration

- Are reminders to take medications necessary? Is cueing and standby assistance needed?
- Does the person use a Mediset?
- How many medications does the person take regularly?
- Is non-compliance with the medication regimen an issue?
- Is physical assistance to take medications required, or is the person able to take the medicines by him/her self?
- Is the person fully dependent on a caregiver to receive medications (e.g. medication by feeding tube, person has advanced Alzheimer's Disease, or is quadriplegic)?
- Are the medications complex (e.g. injectables, special instructions, etc.)?

## 3. Recent Acute, Nursing Home, Emergency Room, or Rehab Admissions

- What is the nature of recent hospital, emergency room, or nursing home admissions?
- How frequently has the person been admitted in the past year?
- How much time has been spent in hospitals, LTC, or rehab environments in the past year?
- Is the person currently in an assisted living home, hospital, nursing home, or rehab facility?

## 4. Management Intensity of Disability

- Can the person receive outpatient care for their disability?
- Are skilled services or chore or PCA services needed? How often and why?

## **5. Cognitive Impairments**

- Is there short-term memory loss? How severe is it?
- Does the person experience confusion? How often?
- Is questionable or poor judgment evident?
- Is the person combative or assaultive?
- Is 24-hour supervision related to cognitive impairment or dementia necessary?

## **6. ADL's: Eating and Drinking, Toileting, Bathing, Transfer, Dressing, Grooming, Mobility**

- Are specialized assistive devices required?
- Are cues and reminders to perform the task needed?
- Is constant supervision needed in order to complete the task correctly and safely?
- Is frequent physical assistance by caregivers required?
- Is the person completely dependent on caregivers for performance of tasks?
- Is the person at risk of falling?